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Sixty-third session
Agenda item 118

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda under agenda item 118 at its 22nd and 28th meetings, on 4 and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.22 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (A/62/538/Add.2);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/570);

(c) Letter dated 6 March 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly (A/C.5/61/19).

08-67297 (E) 080109

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.11

4. At its 28th meeting on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda" (A/C.5/63/L.11) submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Greece.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.11 without a vote (see para. 6 below).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Conditions of service and compensation for officials other than Secretariat officials: members of the International Court of Justice and judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda

The General Assembly,

Recalling section VIII of its resolution 53/214 of 18 December 1998, its resolutions 55/249 of 12 April 2001, 56/285 of 27 June 2002 and 57/289 of 20 December 2002, section III of its resolution 59/282 of 13 April 2005, paragraph 11 of its resolution 61/262 of 4 April 2007 and its decision 62/547 of 3 April 2008,

Recalling also Article 32 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice, as well as relevant General Assembly resolutions that govern the conditions of service and compensation for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991 and the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

I

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Reaffirms* the principle that the conditions of service and compensation for non-Secretariat United Nations officials shall be separate and distinct from those for officials of the Secretariat;

3. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions contained in its report;[2]

4. *Decides* that any decisions with regard to the pension scheme shall apply only to the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges and ad litem judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and shall not constitute a precedent for any other category of judges working within the United Nations system and that any decision regarding the service of any other category of judges shall be taken on a case-by-case basis;

[1] A/62/538/Add.2.
[2] A/63/570.

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make the necessary revisions to article 1, paragraph 2, of the Pension Scheme Regulations for the members of the International Court of Justice and for the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, accordingly;

6. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on any additional expenditures resulting from the above decision in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and the second performance reports of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda for the biennium 2008-2009;

7. *Recalls* paragraph 11 of its resolution 61/262, in which it requested the Secretary-General to report on options for designing pension schemes, and notes that the Secretary-General has proposed essentially only one option and that, rather than seek the expertise available within the Organization, he has relied on the services of a consultant;

8. *Decides* that the emoluments, pensions, and other conditions of service for the members of the International Court of Justice and the judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda shall next be reviewed at its sixty-fifth session, including options for defined benefit and defined contribution pension schemes, and in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to ensure that, in that review, the expertise available within the United Nations is taken full advantage of;

II

Having considered the letter dated 6 March 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the letter dated 6 March 2007 from the Secretary-General to the President of the General Assembly;[3]

2. *Notes* that the International Criminal Court is not a United Nations entity;

3. *Decides* to amend article 1.7 of the Pension Scheme Regulations for members of the International Court of Justice and article 1.5 of the Pension Scheme Regulations for judges of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda to include a specific reference to the International Criminal Court so as to ensure that no former judge of any of these Courts receives a pension while also serving as a judge of the International Criminal Court;

4. *Notes*, in this regard, the issues of fairness and equality of treatment in respect of the above decision;

5. *Reaffirms* the provisions contained in its resolution 58/318 of 13 September 2004 and emphasizes that the decision contained in paragraph 3 above shall not create a precedent for other organizations outside of the United Nations in respect of the application of pension benefits of judges of the International Court of Justice, the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

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[3] A/C.5/61/19.

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Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 118 appear in the report of the Committee contained in document A/63/648.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the question of development-related activities under agenda item 118 at its 6th, 8th, 9th, 27th and 28th meetings, on 14, 16 and 21 October and 22 and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.6, 8, 9, 27 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 (A/62/708);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the Development Account (A/63/335);

(d) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/479).

[1] A/62/7/Add.40. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

08-67333 (E) 150109

II. Consideration of draft proposals

4. At its 27th meeting, on 22 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Development-related activities" (A/C.5/63/L.9), which was submitted by the representative of Antigua and Barbuda on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China. The draft resolution read as follows:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* paragraph 73 of its resolution 62/236 of 22 December 2007,

"*Recalling also* its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987,

"*Recalling further* its resolutions 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 52/220 and 52/221 A of 22 December 1997, 52/235 of 26 June 1998, 53/220 A of 7 April 1999, 53/220 B of 8 June 1999, 54/15 of 29 October 1999, 56/237 of 24 December 2001 and 60/246 of 23 December 2005, section IV of its resolution 61/252 of 22 December 2006 and section VIII of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007,

"*Reaffirming* Article 55 of the Charter of the United Nations and the fundamental role of the United Nations in the promotion of international economic and social cooperation,

"*Reaffirming also* the central position of the General Assembly as the chief deliberative, policymaking and representative organ of the United Nations,

"*Having considered* the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities and the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 and on the Development Account as well as the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,

"1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of the development-related activities and the revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and on the Development Account;

"2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

"3. *Reaffirms* its commitment to take urgent and concrete action to address the special needs of and challenges faced by Africa, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, decides, in this regard, not to abolish the post of the Special Adviser on Africa and one General Service (Other level) post, and requests the Secretary-General to fill these posts as a matter of urgency;

"4. *Reiterates* its commitment to promote gender equality and the empowerment of women as effective ways to combat poverty, hunger and disease and to stimulate development that is truly sustainable, takes note, in

this regard, of paragraph 36 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and decides to approve the proposals of the Secretary-General for additional posts in the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women;

"5. *Recognizes* the growing demand for the capacity-building activities and other technical cooperation services of the Committee on Economic Cooperation and Integration for the Member States, especially countries with economies in transition, and, in this regard, decides to establish one P-4 post under subprogramme 4, economic cooperation and integration, of section 19, Economic development in Europe, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009;

"6. *Takes note* of paragraphs 31, 32 and 39 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and decides to establish, under section 9, Economic and social affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium, two P-5 posts and one P-4 post (general temporary assistance), under executive direction and management, one P-4 post, under subprogramme 1, Economic and Social Council support and coordination, and two P-4 and two P-3 posts, under subprogramme 5, Statistics;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution, as well as to continue to analyse the gaps in the capacity of the Secretariat to implement its mandates in the development field, and to submit a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on proposals to further strengthen the development-related activities of the Secretariat."

5. At the 28th meeting, on 23 December, the representative of Antigua and Barbuda, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China, withdrew draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.9.

6. At the same meeting, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Development-related activities" (A/C.5/63/L.20), submitted by the Chairman on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Mexico.

7. Also at its 28th meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.20 without a vote (see para. 8).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Development-related activities

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and the Development Account,[2] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General on improving the effective and efficient delivery of the mandates of development-related activities and revised estimates relating to the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009[1] and the Development Account;[2]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Acknowledges* that peace and security, development and human rights are the pillars of the United Nations system and the foundations for collective security and well-being, and recognizes that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing;

4. *Stresses* the importance of a coherent vision of the Secretariat's role in the global development architecture;

5. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, in his capacity as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to enhance the coordination of the United Nations Development System with a view to ensuring greater synergies, effectiveness, efficiencies and coherence of efforts in the delivery of its social, economic and development mandates;

6. *Decides* to establish the posts as contained in the annex to the present resolution;

7. *Also decides* that the posts for section 17, Economic and social development in Africa, section 18, Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific, section 19, Economic development in Europe, section 20, Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean, and section 21, Economic and social development in Western Asia, shall be established effective 1 January 2009, and the posts for section 9, Economic and social affairs, section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, section 11, United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's

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[1] A/62/708.

[2] A/63/335.

[3] A/62/7/Add.40 (for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*) and A/63/479.

Development, and section 12, Trade and development, shall be established effective 1 July 2009;

8. *Further decides* not to abolish the post of the Special Adviser on Africa at the level of Under-Secretary-General;

9. *Decides* not to approve the non-post resources for travel of staff, consultants and experts and contractual services, excluding the regional commissions;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013.

Annex

Development-related activities: posts to be established under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Section and subprogramme	*Number of posts*	*Level*
9. Economic and social affairs		
Executive direction and management	1	1 P-5
1: Economic and Social Council support and coordination	1	1 P-4
2: Gender issues and advancement of women	5	1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3
3: Social policy and development	1	1 P-4
4: Sustainable development	1	1 P-4
5: Statistics	1	1 P-3
6: Population	1	1 P-4
9: Sustainable forest management	1	1 P-5
10: Financing for development	1	1 P-4
Subtotal	**13**	**3 P-5, 7 P-4, 3 P-3**
10. Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States		
1: Least developed countries	1	1 P-4
2: Landlocked developing countries	1	1 P-4
3: Small island developing States	1	1 P-4
Subtotal	**3**	**3 P-4**
11. United Nations support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development		
1: Coordination of global advocacy of and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development	3	1 P-4, 2 P-3
Subtotal	**3**	**1 P-4, 2 P-3**
12. Trade and development		
1: Globalization, interdependence and development	6	1 D-1, 1 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3
2: Investment, enterprise and technology	2	1 P-5, 1 P-4
3: International trade	2	1 D-1, 1 P-4
5: Africa, least developed countries and special programmes	2	1 D-1, 1 P-4
Subtotal	**12**	**3 D-1, 2 P-5, 5 P-4, 2 P-3**
17. Economic and social development in Africa		
Executive direction and management	1	1 National Officer
7: Subregional activities for development	11	11 National Officer
9: Statistics	6	2 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3

Section and subprogramme	*Number of posts*	*Level*
Programme support	1	1 National Officer
Subtotal	**19**	**2 P-5, 2 P-4, 2 P-3, 13 National Officer**
18. Economic and social development in Asia and the Pacific		
3: Subregional activities for development	11	2 D-1, 4 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Local level, 1 National Officer
Subtotal	**11**	**2 D-1, 4 P-5, 1 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 Local level, 1 National Officer**
19. Economic development in Europe		
Executive direction and management	1	1 P-4
3: Statistics	1	1 P-3
5: Sustainable energy	1	1 P-4
Programme support	1	1 P-3
Subtotal	**4**	**2 P-4, 2 P-3**
20. Economic and social development in Latin America and the Caribbean		
1: Linkages with the global economy, regional integration and cooperation	2	1 P-4, 1 P-3
2: Production and innovation	1	1 P-3
4: Social development and equity	1	1 P-3
5: Mainstreaming the gender perspective in regional development	2	1 P-5, 1 P-3
6: Population and development	1	1 P-3
8: Sustainable development and human settlements	3	1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 P-2
9: Natural resources and infrastructure	4	1 P-4, 2 P-2, 1 Local level
10: Statistics and economic projections	1	1 P-3
11: Subregional activities in Mexico and Central America	3	1 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 Local level
12: Subregional activities in the Caribbean	2	2 P-3
Subtotal	**20**	**2 P-5, 3 P-4, 10 P-3, 3 P-2, 2 Local level**
21. Economic and social development in Western Asia		
1: Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development	1	1 P-4
2: Integrated social policies	1	1 P-4
3: Economic development and integration	1	1 P-4
4: Information and communication technology for regional integration	2	1 P-5, 1 National Officer
5: Statistics for evidence-based policymaking	1	1 P-3
Subtotal	**6**	**1 P-5, 3 P-4, 1 P-3, 1 National Officer**
Total	**91**	

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Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 118 appear in the report of the Committee contained in documents A/63/648 and Add.1.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of this item, and in particular the question of strengthening the Department of Political Affairs, at its 28th meeting, on 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary record (A/C.5/63/SR.28).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, section 3, Political affairs, section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 35, Staff assessment, related to the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs (A/62/521 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

(c) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs (A/61/357);

[1] A/62/7/Add.32. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

08-67303 (E) 210109

(d) Letter dated 7 March 2008 from the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba to the Secretary-General (A/C.5/62/24);

(e) Letter dated 12 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba (A/C.5/62/25).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.21

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs" (A/C.5/63/L.21), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Bangladesh.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.21 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 62/236 of 22 December 2007,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the revised estimates relating to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination, section 3, Political affairs, section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, and section 35, Staff assessment, related to the strengthening of the Department of Political Affairs,[1] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs,[2] the letter dated 7 March 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[3] the letter dated 12 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba[4] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5]

Reaffirming the rules of procedure of the General Assembly,

Recalling the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation[6] and the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations,[7]

Stressing the intergovernmental, multilateral and international character of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the role of the General Assembly and its relevant intergovernmental and expert bodies, within their respective mandates, in planning, programming, budgeting, monitoring and evaluation,

Recognizing that the prevention of armed conflict and the peaceful settlement of disputes are central to the mandate of the United Nations,

Recognizing also that preventive diplomacy is a core function of the United Nations and is central to the role of the Secretary-General and that the Department of Political Affairs has primary responsibility for carrying out preventive diplomacy and supporting the good offices function of the Secretary-General,

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[1] A/62/521 and Corr.1.
[2] A/61/357.
[3] A/C.5/62/24.
[4] A/C.5/62/25.
[5] A/62/7/Add.32. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.
[6] ST/SGB/2000/8.
[7] ST/SGB/2003/7.

Recognizing further the important role of the good offices of the Secretary-General, including in the mediation of disputes,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[1]

2. *Stresses* that any activity by the Department of Political Affairs related to preventive diplomacy and conflict resolution must be carried out in accordance with the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States;

3. *Also stresses* that improvement in the capacity of the United Nations to prevent and resolve conflicts is a better investment than dealing with the cost of armed conflict and its aftermath;

4. *Recognizes* the important role women play in the area of preventive diplomacy;

5. *Also recognizes* that the root causes of armed conflict are multidimensional in nature, thus requiring a comprehensive and integrated approach to the prevention of armed conflict;

6. *Notes* that the objective of strengthening and rationalizing the Department of Political Affairs, including its supportive role regarding preventive diplomacy and resolution of conflict, is to improve the Department's effectiveness and efficiency in fulfilling its mandate;

7. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

8. *Also reaffirms* its role in carrying out a thorough analysis and approval of human and financial resources and policies, with a view to ensuring full, effective and efficient implementation of all mandated programmes and activities and the implementation of policies in this regard;

9. *Further reaffirms* its role with regard to the structure of the Secretariat, and stresses that proposals that amend the overall departmental structure, as well as the format of the programme budget and the biennial programme plan, are subject to its review and prior approval;

10. *Reaffirms* its resolution 55/231 of 23 December 2000, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that in presenting the programme budget, expected accomplishments and indicators of achievement are included to measure achievements in the implementation of the programmes of the Organization and not those of individual Member States;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to explore potential synergies and complementarities among special political missions, where possible, in order to avoid duplication and overlap, bearing in mind the autonomous nature of each legislative mandate;

12. *Underlines* the continued importance of the role of the Secretary-General in ensuring, when appointing his special representatives and envoys, the highest standards of integrity, competency, impartiality and professionalism;

13. *Emphasizes* the sensitivity of the mandates of special political missions, and in this regard recalls Article 2, paragraph 7, of the Charter of the United Nations;

14. *Recalls* that the Secretary-General may nominate special representatives and envoys, and in this respect notes the intention of the Secretary-General to continuously consult with concerned Member States on these matters;

15. *Also recalls* the role of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter;

16. *Reiterates* that the delegation of authority on the part of the Secretary-General should be in order to facilitate the better management of the Organization, but stresses that the overall responsibility for management of the Organization rests with the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer;

17. *Also reiterates* the importance of strengthened accountability in the Organization and of ensuring greater accountability of the Secretary-General to Member States, inter alia, for the effective and efficient implementation of legislative mandates and the use of human and financial resources;

18. *Recalls* the letter dated 7 March 2008 from the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba addressed to the Secretary-General[3] and the letter dated 12 March 2008 from the Secretary-General to the Permanent Representatives of Antigua and Barbuda and Cuba,[4] stresses the strong concerns of some Member States contained therein, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that there is sufficient knowledge within the Department of Political Affairs of the political situation in all regions and to abide strictly by the principles enshrined in the Charter;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in this regard, to ensure that, in the submission of future budget documents, the narrative parts are based solely on factual information;

20. *Stresses* the importance of the role of the Department of Political Affairs in providing appropriate political guidance in the context of its involvement in United Nations trust funds to which it provides such guidance, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter and the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

21. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

22. *Recalls* section V, paragraph 8, of its resolution 62/238 of 22 December 2007, takes note of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services[2] and stresses the importance of its full implementation;

23. *Emphasizes* the importance of the integration of effort, policy coherence and efficiency in the use of resources;

24. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to address systemic issues that hamper good management of the Organization, including the work processes and procedures, and in that context stresses that structural change is no substitute for managerial improvement;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to identify, where possible, means to achieve greater complementarities and synergies between the Department of Political Affairs and other departments and offices of the United Nations Secretariat as well as other relevant actors of the United Nations system;

26. *Stresses* the importance of clear reporting lines and accountability between the special political missions and Headquarters;

27. *Decides* to establish the Middle East and West Asia Division and, in this regard, not to divide it into sections and units, and stresses the need to continue the current arrangement;

28. *Recalls* all United Nations resolutions related to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine, and notes the responsibilities of the Middle East and West Asia Division in this regard;

29. *Decides* that the Asia and Pacific Division shall be composed of two sections, as follows:

(a) Asia-Pacific I Section (Central, South and North-east Asian countries);

(b) Asia-Pacific II Section (South-east Asia and the Pacific countries);

30. *Also decides* that the Americas Division shall comprise four sections, as follows:

(a) North America;

(b) Central America;

(c) The Caribbean;

(d) South America;

31. *Stresses* the importance of the Department of Political Affairs continuing to pay adequate attention to the situation in Haiti in support of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and other relevant United Nations entities;

32. *Decides* that the Caribbean Section shall be headed at the P-5 level;

33. *Stresses* the importance of the Department of Political Affairs continuing to pay adequate attention to regional and subregional organizations;

34. *Decides* not to establish a Policy, Partnerships and Mediation Support Division and not to approve the reclassification of a post for a director of that division from the D-1 to the D-2 level, and requests the Secretary-General to resubmit his proposals, taking fully into account the mandate of the Department of Political Affairs as stipulated in the strategic framework;

35. *Also decides* not to establish a Special Political Missions Support Unit until a report on the management and administration of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs is considered by the General Assembly;

36. *Stresses* the need for the Secretary-General to consider the status of the existing field presence of the United Nations entities engaged in promoting peace and security, taking into account their respective mandates, before proposing the establishment of regional offices;

37. *Recalls* paragraph 23 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5] and stresses that the establishment of any future regional political affairs office requires the concurrence of all concerned Member States covered by the relevant mandate approved by the appropriate legislative bodies;

38. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to continue to regularly brief Member States on issues related to the work of the Department of Political Affairs and to keep ensuring appropriate interaction between the Department and the principal bodies of the Organization;

39. *Requests* the Secretary-General to entrust the Office of Internal Oversight Services with conducting an audit of the management of special political missions by the Department of Political Affairs, as a follow-up to the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and to submit a report on the audit to the General Assembly for its consideration at the main part of its sixty-fourth session;

40. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present a comprehensive report to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session on the efficiency and effectiveness of the new structure in the implementation of mandates as well as programmatic delivery and improvements in the administrative and management processes and efficiency gains;

41. *Decides* to establish the posts as contained in the annex to the present resolution.

Annex

Department of Political Affairs: posts to be established under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Organizational unit		*Number of posts*	*Post level*
United Nations Liaison Office	New Reclassification	3	1 P-5, 1 P-3, 1 LL 1 D-1 to D-2
Office of the Under-Secretary-General	Reclassification Redeployment		1 P-3 to P-4 D-2 from Americas Division
Office of the Assistant Secretary-General (Africa)	New	1	1 P-4
Africa I Division	New	8	3 P-4, 2 P-3, 1 P-2, 2 GS (OL)
Africa II Division	New	6	1 P-3, 4 P-2, 1 GS (OL)
Middle East and West Asia Division	New	5	1 P-5, 1 P-4 (Iraq) , 2 P-3, 1 P-2
Asia and Pacific Division	New	4	3 P-3, 1 P-2
Americas Division	New Redeployment	3	1 P-5, 2 P-2 D-2 to the Office of the Under-Secretary-General
Europe Division	New Reclassification	1	1 P-4 (Cyprus) 1 D-1 to D-2
Mediation Support Unit	New	7	1 P-4, 3 P-3, 2 P-2, 1 GS (OL)
Electoral Assistance Division	New Reclassification	8	1 P-5, 3 P-4, 4 GS (OL) 1 P-2 to P-3
Security Council Affairs Division	New	2	2 P-2
Executive Office	New Reclassification	1	1 P-4 1 P-5 to D-1
Total		**49**	**2 D-2, -1 D-1, 3 P-5, 12 P-4, 12 P-3, 12 P-2, 8 GS (OL), 1 LL**

Abbreviations: GS (OL), General Service (Other Level); LL, Local level.

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Agenda item 118

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. The previous recommendations made by the Fifth Committee to the General Assembly under agenda item 118 appear in the report of the Committee contained in documents A/63/648 and Add.1 and 2.

2. The Fifth Committee resumed its consideration of this item, and in particular the question of information and communications technology, enterprise resource planning, security, disaster recovery and business continuity, at its 10th and 28th meetings, on 22 October and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.10 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the question, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on investing in the United Nations for a stronger Organization worldwide: interim report: investing in information and communications technology (A/61/765);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility of the application of cost-accounting principles in the United Nations Secretariat (A/61/826);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on information and communications technology security, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations (A/62/477);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on investing in information and communications technology: status report (A/62/502);

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(e) Report of the Secretary-General on information and communications technology: enterprise systems for the United Nations Secretariat worldwide (A/62/510/Rev.1);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on investing in information and communications technology: information and communications strategy for the United Nations Secretariat and the addendum thereto (A/62/793 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(g) First progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations (A/62/806);

(h) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/478);

(i) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/61/804);

(j) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[1]

(k) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/62/537);

(l) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/487 and Corr.1 and 2);

(m) Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/496);

(n) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "A common payroll for United Nations system organizations" (A/60/582) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/60/582/Add.1);

(o) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Policies of the United Nations system organizations towards the use of open source software in the secretariats" (A/60/665) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/60/665/Add.1);

(p) Note by the Secretary-General on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery (A/61/290);

(q) Notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Knowledge management in the United Nations system" (A/63/140) and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon (A/63/140/Add.1).

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[1] A/62/7/Add.31. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.18

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Information and communications technology, enterprise resource planning, and security, disaster recovery and business continuity" (A/C.5/63/L.18), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Malaysia.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.18 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Information and communications technology, enterprise resource planning, and security, disaster recovery and business continuity

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/304 of 15 April 2003, 59/275 of 23 December 2004, 60/283, section II, of 1 July 2006 and 62/250 of 20 June 2008,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Investing in information and communications technology: information and communications strategy for the United Nations Secretariat"[1] and the addendum thereto,[2] the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Information and communications technology: enterprise systems for the United Nations Secretariat worldwide",[3] the report of the Secretary-General on information and communications technology security, disaster recovery and business continuity for the United Nations[4] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5] the first progress report of the Secretary-General on the adoption of International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations[6] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[7] the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Investing in information and communications technology: status report"[8] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9] the note by the Secretary-General on information and communication technology security, business continuity and disaster recovery[10] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[11] the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Investing in the United Nations for a stronger Organization worldwide: interim report: investing in information and communications technology"[12] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[13] the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on policies of the United Nations system organizations towards the use of open source software in the secretariats[14] and the comments of the Secretary-

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[1] A/62/793 and Corr.1.
[2] A/62/793/Add.1.
[3] A/62/510/Rev.1.
[4] A/62/477.
[5] A/63/487 and Corr.1 and 2.
[6] A/62/806.
[7] A/63/496.
[8] A/62/502.
[9] A/62/7/Add.31. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 7A*.
[10] A/61/290.
[11] A/61/478.
[12] A/61/765.
[13] A/61/804.
[14] A/60/665.

General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[15] the notes by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on knowledge management in the United Nations system[16] and the comments of the Secretary-General and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination thereon,[17] and the report of the Secretary-General on the feasibility of the application of cost-accounting principles in the United Nations Secretariat[18] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19]

Underlining the importance of information and communications technology in meeting the growing demands of the Organization as it becomes increasingly reliant on its information technology and communications infrastructure,

Also underlining the importance of information and communications technology in strengthening oversight and accountability and in increasing the availability of accurate and timely information to support decision-making,

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

2. *Recalls* the role of the Secretary-General as the Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, in accordance with the provisions of Article 97 of the Charter of the United Nations;

3. *Recognizes* the need for central authority to set common standards, provide an organization-wide perspective, optimize use of resources and improve information and communications technology services;

4. *Also recognizes* the need for an integrated, global information system that makes possible the effective management of human, financial and physical resources and that is based on streamlined business processes and best practices;

5. *Further recognizes* the need for a global operational framework to enable the United Nations to respond effectively to emergency situations that may impair the operations of critical elements of its information and communications technology infrastructure and facilities;

6. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5,9] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

I
Information and communications technology strategy and governance

Recognizing the importance of the Secretary-General's knowledge management proposals, particularly in facilitating more informed decision-making and improving the effectiveness of the Organization,

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[15] A/60/665/Add.1.
[16] A/63/140.
[17] A/63/140/Add.1.
[18] A/61/826.
[19] A/62/537.

Emphasizing the importance of strong, central leadership for the establishment and implementation of Organization-wide information and communications technology standards and activities in order to ensure efficient utilization of resources, modernization of information systems and improvement in the information and communications technology services available to the United Nations,

1. *Recognizes* that the successful integration of central information and communications technology functions across the Secretariat is essential to achieving coherence and coordination in the work of the Organization and between the Secretariat and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies;

2. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to establish the Office of Information and Communications Technology in a budget-and-staff-neutral manner;

3. *Stresses* the need for a simple and operationally effective information and communications technology governance structure with clear lines of authority and accountability;

4. *Decides* to establish the Office of Information and Communications Technology as an independent organizational unit under a separate budget section, to be headed by the Chief Information Technology Officer at the level of Assistant Secretary-General;

5. *Emphasizes* that there is no single governance model for information and communications technology that can be assumed to be solely appropriate for the United Nations;

6. *Notes* the considerable level of expertise in the International Computing Centre, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to utilize the services of the Centre in supporting the information and communications technology activities of the United Nations;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the centralization and integration of the information and communications technology functions under the Office of Information and Communications Technology do not have any negative impact on the support provided to field operations worldwide;

8. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to foster deeper coordination and collaboration among United Nations organizations in all matters related to information and communications technology;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in accordance with its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003, to submit a revised strategic framework to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-ninth session in the light of the programmatic aspects of the revision arising from the creation of the Office of Information and Communications Technology;

10. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on his information and communications technology strategy at the main part of its sixty-fifth session, including on:

(a) Any necessary adjustments to the governance structure to make it simpler and operationally effective as a policy setting and management instrument;

(b) An update on such management and reporting arrangements;

(c) An in-depth assessment of the organizational arrangement, including the possibility of changing the placement of the Office of Information and Communications Technology in the structure of the Organization;

(d) A comprehensive inventory of information and communications technology capacities across the Secretariat, including dedicated and part-time personnel;

(e) More precisely identified and quantified efficiency gains or benefits expected from the implementation of the information and communications technology strategy;

(f) The methodology and benchmarks used to identify and measure those benefits;

(g) The roles and responsibilities of the Office of the Chief Information Technology Officer and the Department of Field Support regarding information and communications technology activities, including on lines of authority, accountability and the division of labour set out in the new organizational structure;

II

Enterprise resource planning project

1. *Recalls* paragraph 4, section II, of resolution 60/283, and its decision to replace the Integrated Management Information System with a next-generation enterprise resource planning system or other comparable system;

2. *Stresses* that the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system should aim at consolidating the management of all financial, human and physical resources under a single integrated information system for the entire Organization, including for peacekeeping and field missions;

3. *Recognizes* the considerable operational and financial risks involved in the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system, and stresses the need for the Secretary-General to ensure full accountability and clear lines of responsibility for the project;

4. *Notes* the Secretary-General's intention to implement the functionalities of the United Nations enterprise resource planning system in ways that would mitigate organizational and managerial risks;

5. *Stresses* the need to implement the various functions of the enterprise resource planning system across the global range of United Nations offices in a well-planned, step-by-step manner that ensures adequate preparation and training for each location and that minimizes the burden of change on the Organization and its resources, in order to further mitigate organizational and managerial risks;

6. *Notes* that the enterprise resource planning system provides for an integrated suite of information technology applications, as outlined by the Secretary-General in paragraph 20 of his report,[1] and requests the Secretary-General to report on those applications to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session;

7. *Approves* the proposed governance framework of the enterprise resource planning project;

8. *Notes* that the enterprise resource planning governance structure proposed by the Secretary-General is distinct from the information and communications technology governance structure;

9. *Recognizes* that the successful implementation of the enterprise resource planning project requires the full support and commitment of senior management, as well as close and continuous engagement with key stakeholders;

10. *Emphasizes* that the enterprise resource planning project should be viewed primarily as a business project driven by business process demands and delivered through complex information technology systems requiring a high level of technical expertise;

11. *Recalls* that the objective of the enterprise resource planning project is to enhance the effective and transparent use of the resources of the Organization and, in that regard, emphasizes the need to identify tangible and measurable efficiency and productivity gains arising from the project;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to limit customization of the enterprise resource planning software to the extent feasible in order to ensure cost-effectiveness as well as flexibility in upgrading to new versions of the software and to report on any necessary customization with full justification of rationale and cost;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, where customization for a particular function is unavoidable, to consider enhancing existing systems or using specialized software that can integrate with the enterprise resource planning system where it is more cost-effective in the long-term;

14. *Stresses* that changes to the working practices and business processes of the Secretariat should always be considered before undertaking customization;

15. *Expresses* its readiness to consider any duly justified proposal aimed at reducing customization, stressing that any proposed changes to the United Nations regulations must obtain prior approval of the General Assembly;

16. *Stresses* that, as a later adopter of the enterprise resource planning system, the United Nations can benefit from the lessons learned by other entities of the United Nations system that have implemented such systems;

17. *Takes note* of the overall resource requirements for the implementation of the enterprise resource planning systems for the United Nations as contained in the relevant report of the Secretary-General;[3]

18. *Approves* the amount of 20,000,000 United States dollars, comprising 5,110,000 dollars to be funded from the regular budget for the biennium 2008-2009, 7,050,000 dollars from the peacekeeping support account for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 and 7,840,000 dollars from extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2008-2009 for the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system;

19. *Decides* to approve the utilization of the amount of 2,346,000 dollars of interest accrued under the Integrated Management Information System Fund available as at 31 December 2007 to offset the regular budget requirements for the enterprise resource planning project approved in paragraph 18 above;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to meet the regular budget share of requirements for the enterprise resource planning system in the amount of 2,764,000 dollars from the overall resources appropriated for the biennium 2008-2009 for the regular budget and to report the related expenditure as necessary in the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009;

21. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in a total amount not to exceed 7.05 million dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 in respect of the support account share for the enterprise resource planning project;

22. *Takes note* that an estimated amount of 7,840,000 dollars will be financed from extrabudgetary resources for the biennium 2008-2009;

23. *Endorses* the cost-sharing arrangement for the financing of the enterprise resource planning project proposed by the Secretary-General in paragraph 79 of his report;[3]

24. *Decides* not to suspend the provisions for the application of credits under regulations 3.2 (d), 5.3 and 5.4 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, regarding the use of available balances in the surplus account of the United Nations General Fund and the unencumbered balance of active peacekeeping operations;

25. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to establish a multi-year special account to record income and expenditures for this project;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to keep the enterprise resource planning governance structure under review and to report to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fourth session on the enterprise resource planning project, including:

(a) An assessment of the organizational arrangements;

(b) A revised enterprise resource planning project implementation and updated budget, taking stock of the design phase, with a full and detailed justification of the resources needed;

(c) An updated business case, including details on tangible and measurable efficiency and productivity gains in the areas of operation and administration to be achieved through the implementation of the enterprise resource planning system, as well as benchmarks for measuring progress and the anticipated return on investment;

(d) Highlighting those modules that are essential for the implementation of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

(e) An update on the implementation of the customer relationship management and enterprise content management systems, including further resources required, as well as the cost-sharing arrangement for their continued implementation;

(f) Justification of the need, and options for, contingency resources, including a possible budgetary alternative;

(g) Options for a reduced enterprise resource planning package at lower cost;

III
Customer relationship management and enterprise content management systems

1. *Recognizes* the benefits of the implementation of the customer relationship management and enterprise content management systems, and requests the Secretary-General to continue to implement those applications throughout the Organization, as appropriate;

2. *Stresses* that the customer relationship management and enterprise content management systems shall be developed and implemented under the authority of the Chief Information Technology Officer in order to ensure a coordinated approach to the development of enterprise systems;

3. *Emphasizes* the need to ensure complementarity between the customer relationship management and enterprise content management systems with the forthcoming enterprise resource planning system;

4. *Decides* to approve additional resource requirements for the enterprise content management project in the amount of 2 million dollars under the regular budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and requests the Secretary-General to meet the above requirements from within the overall resources appropriated for the biennium 2008-2009 for the regular budget and report on the related expenditure, as necessary, in the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009;

5. *Notes* that implementation of the customer relationship management and enterprise content management systems is already in progress, and that at the time of the inception of those projects, the Secretary-General had not made a full proposal to the General Assembly;

IV
Security, disaster recovery and business continuity

1. *Emphasizes* the necessity for appropriate information and communications technology security, disaster recovery and business continuity plans;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to consolidate systems in central data centres in order to strengthen disaster recovery and business continuity and to minimize the size of local primary and secondary data centres;

3. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to prioritize systems in order to minimize the cost of disaster recovery and business continuity;

4. *Recalls* section XV of its resolution 60/266, and stresses the need to ensure timely and secure communications and information exchange within and between duty stations, as well as to ensure that a robust and fault-tolerant infrastructure is in place to continue or restart operations in the event of a natural or a man-made disaster or disruption;

5. *Notes* that the Secretariat lacks an Organization-wide approach to disaster recovery and business continuity, thereby exposing the Organization to considerable risks, and, in this regard, welcomes the development of a unified approach to disaster recovery and business continuity activities throughout the Secretariat;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to take a unified approach to disaster recovery and business continuity, utilizing all available infrastructure, in order to achieve economies of scale and cost efficiencies;

7. *Deeply regrets* that the Secretary-General entered into a long-term lease for the proposed Long Island data centre before the viability of the site as a secondary data centre for United Nations Headquarters had been fully established, and urges the Secretary-General to explore alternative uses for the leased space as a matter of urgency;

8. *Notes with concern* that the delay this caused may lead to further cost escalation, including to the capital master plan, and risk to data;

9. *Notes* the particular challenge of providing disaster recovery and business continuity to customized departmental information and communications technology systems, and encourages the Secretary-General to pursue an enterprise information and communications technology approach wherever possible;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the United Nations uses enterprise data centres rather than local data centres as far as possible;

11. *Decides* not to approve the proposal of the Secretary-General for a new secondary data centre at this stage, and requests him to report to the General Assembly at the first part of its resumed sixty-third session on the risk mitigation measures to be taken during the relocation of the primary data centre to the North Lawn;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a unified disaster recovery and business continuity plan, including a permanent solution for Headquarters;

13. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to fully explore the possibilities for consolidating and using the most reliable and cost-effective solution for data storage, business continuity services and hosting of enterprise systems, drawing on the experience of other United Nations entities and global developments in information and communications technology, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at the main part of its sixty-fourth session;

14. *Encourages* application and data re-engineering where it supports the long-term goal of managing data recovery and business continuity in system-wide enterprise data centres and where, from a long-term perspective, it is more cost-effective than hosting them at a local data centre;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the commitment of the Government of Spain and approves the related proposal to host a secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia, Spain, to support peacekeeping activities;

16. *Decides* not to proceed at this stage with plans to host computing and data storage equipment relating to Secretariat business continuity operations and enterprise solutions at the secondary active communications facility at Valencia;

17. *Requests* that the report requested in paragraph 13 above include plans to reduce the number of local data centres at Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and peacekeeping missions;

18. *Endorses* the cost-sharing arrangement proposed by the Secretary-General for the new primary data centre of the United Nations Headquarters;[20]

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to present a proposal on cost-sharing arrangements in the context of the report requested in paragraph 11 above on the new secondary data centre;

20. *Takes note* of the intention to meet the estimated requirements in the amount of 149,400 dollars for the establishment of the secondary active telecommunications facility at Valencia, Spain, for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 from within resources approved for the same period for the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, Italy;

21. *Approves* the amount of 7,145,500 dollars, comprising 5,716,400 dollars to be funded from the regular budget to be met from resources appropriated under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and authorizes the Secretary-General to report the related expenditure as necessary in the context of the second performance report on the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the establishment of a new primary data centre on the North Lawn;

22. *Authorizes* the Secretary-General to enter into commitments in a total amount not to exceed 1,429,100 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations for the period from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 in respect of support account share for the establishment of a new primary data centre on the North Lawn;

23. *Takes note* of paragraphs 89 and 96 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[5] and decides to approve the amount of 2.5 million dollars, to be funded under the regular budget for the current biennium, for the provision of disaster recovery and business continuity services to Headquarters, offices away from Headquarters and field missions, and requests the Secretary-General to meet the above requirements from within the overall resources appropriated for the biennium 2008-2009 for the regular budget and report the related expenditures, as necessary, in the second performance report for the biennium 2008-2009;

V
International Public Sector Accounting Standards

1. *Takes note* of the Secretary-General's first progress report on the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;[6]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[7]

3. *Recalls* that the General Assembly, in its resolution 60/283, approved the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards by the United Nations;

4. *Underlines* that the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards will improve governance, accountability and transparency in the United Nations system;

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[20] A/62/477, para. 113.

5. *Recognizes* that the enterprise resource planning system will serve as the backbone for implementation by the United Nations of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards;

6. *Encourages* the Secretary-General, as Chairman of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, to work within the Board to monitor the application of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards to ensure consistency within the United Nations system as a whole;

VI
Cost accounting

1. *Endorses* the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[19] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

2. *Takes note* of paragraphs 12, 17 and 18 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[19]

3. *Notes* that cost accounting is more suitably applied to the support services of the Organization and may not be suitable for use in the substantive work of the Organization;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to improve the methods for calculating costs of support services, including through a framework for cost accounting in order to standardize current costing practices, and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fifth session;

5. *Requests* that the report include an analysis of other areas within the support services of the Organization in which cost accounting could be applied.

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Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the item entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and to allocate it to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the item at its 4th, 11th, 26th and 28th meetings, on 8 and 23 October and 19 and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.4, 11, 26 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework (A/62/701 and Corr.1 and Add.1);

(b) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/457);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/63/167/Add.1);

(d) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/490);

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(e) Report of the Secretary-General on the information-sharing practices between the United Nations and national law enforcement authorities, as well as referrals of possible criminal cases related to United Nations staff, United Nations officials and experts on mission (A/63/331);

(f) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/492);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on the information requested in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 62/247 (A/63/369);

(h) Report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011 (A/63/600);

(i) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/622);

(j) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management at the United Nations: "results-based management at the United Nations has been an administrative chore of little value to accountability and decision-making" (A/63/268);

(k) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the period 1 July 2007 to 31 July 2008 and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon (A/63/329 and Add.1);

(l) Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2008 (A/63/328), sect. III.D;

(m) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process (A/61/805) and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon (A/62/704);

(n) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/63/167).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.26

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011" (A/C.5/63/L.26), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Brazil.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.26 without a vote (see para. 8).

B. Draft decision A/C.5/63/L.29

6. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft decision entitled "Questions deferred for future consideration" (A/C.5/63/L.29), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft decision A/C.5/63/L.29 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. Recommendations of the Fifth Committee

8. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolution 58/269 of 23 December 2003,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2010-2011[1] and the recommendations contained in the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

1. *Reaffirms* that the Fifth Committee is the appropriate Main Committee of the General Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters;

2. *Endorses* the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] subject to the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(*a*) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(*b*) Priorities, reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(*c*) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

(*d*) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

4. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

5. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

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[1] A/63/600.

[2] A/63/622.

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in the proposed budget outline and in the proposed programme budget, provisions for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security that are expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

7. *Stresses* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

8. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 4,871,048,700 United States dollars at revised 2008-2009 rates;

9. *Notes* that the preliminary estimates provided by the Secretary-General for the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 do not include provisions for the implementation of those requirements that are under discussion by the General Assembly and that the requirements pertinent to the regular budget should be reflected in the programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, subject to approval by the Assembly and in accordance with resolutions 41/213 and 42/211;

10. *Welcomes* the information contained in paragraph 8 of and the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;

11. *Notes* the additional information provided in the annex to the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, and requests the Secretary-General to provide similar information in an annex to future budget outlines;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to issue an annex to the report on special political missions containing an updated estimate of the total budget for special political missions for 2010-2011 for consideration by the General Assembly at the beginning of the sixty-fourth session of the Assembly based on updated projected needs and without prejudging the decisions of the relevant legislative organs of the United Nations;

13. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General that he submit, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011, the total amount of resources that he should have at his disposal, from all resources of financing, in order to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities;

14. *Emphasizes* that the proposed budget outline should be submitted sufficiently early in order to be able to serve as a practical tool in the budget preparation process, and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to issue future budget outlines at least thirty days prior to their scheduled introduction, but not later than 15 November of the off-budget year;

15. *Decides* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

16. *Reaffirms* that the budget outline should be submitted in accordance with the priorities set by the General Assembly;

17. *Decides* that the priorities for the biennium 2010-2011 shall be the following:

(*a*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and recent United Nations conferences;

(*b*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

18. *Notes* that the preliminary indicative estimates contained in the present budget outline do not track precisely the priorities of the General Assembly in certain areas, including in the areas of development;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 17 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010–2011;

20. *Notes* that the budget proposal will reflect the benefit of further reviews of possible obsolete activities, additional cost-effective measures and simplified procedures and, in this regard, requests the Secretary-General to rigorously pursue this in accordance with regulation 5.6 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[3] and established practices;

21. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely, at 36,532,900 dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate, and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

[3] ST/SGB/2000/8.

9. The Fifth Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

Questions deferred for future consideration

The General Assembly decides to defer until the resumed part of its sixty-third session consideration of the following agenda items and related documents:

Item 117: Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report of the Secretary-General on the accountability framework, enterprise risk management and internal control framework, and results-based management framework[1]

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the review of results-based management at the United Nations[2]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process[3]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on results-based management in the United Nations in the context of the reform process[4]

Item 118: Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Report of the Secretary-General on the contingent liability reserve for the United Nations Postal Administration[5]

Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[6]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a common payroll for United Nations system organizations[7]

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments and those of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination on the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on a common payroll for United Nations system organizations[8]

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[1] A/62/701 and Corr.1 and Add.1.
[2] A/63/268.
[3] A/61/805.
[4] A/62/704.
[5] A/63/320.
[6] A/63/568.
[7] A/60/582.
[8] A/60/582/Add.1.

Item 122: Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations

Reports of the Committee on Contributions[9]

Reports of the Secretary-General on multi-year payment plans[10]

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[9] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/62/11); ibid., *Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 11* (A/63/11).

[10] A/62/70 and A/63/68.

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Agenda items 118 and 89

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

General and complete disarmament

Towards an arms trade treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings, on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/10) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39. At the 26th meeting, on 19 December, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/621). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 6).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

3. At the 28th meeting, on 23 December, the representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on section A of draft decision A/C.5/63/L.27.

4. The representative of the United States made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted, by a recorded vote of 123 to 1, with 21 abstentions, section A of draft decision A/C.5/63/L.27 (see para. 6 below). The voting was as follows:

08-67212 (E) 200109

In favour:*

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Eritrea, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Senegal, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Against:

United States of America.

Abstaining:

Bahrain, Belarus, China, Egypt, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

Decision of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.1/63/L.39, additional resources in the total amount of $1,225,900 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($1,182,000), and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($44,000), of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. These additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operations of the contingency fund.

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* The delegation of Lao People's Democratic Republic indicated that it would like to disassociate from the vote and the delegation of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland indicated that it had intended to vote in favour of section A of draft decision A/C.5/63/L.27.

[1] A/C.5/63/10.

[2] A/63/621.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/12) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33. At the 26th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/614). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.33, additional requirements amounting to $753,200 would be required under section 3, Political affairs, of the programme budget for the biennium

[1] A/C.5/63/12.
[2] A/63/614.

08-67218 (E) 150109

2008-2009 for the continued efforts of the good offices of the Secretary-General relating to the situation in Myanmar. Approval for these requirements is being sought in the context of the report of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives authorized by the Assembly and/or Security Council.[3]

[3] A/63/346/Add.1 and Corr.1 and 2.

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Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Committee on the Rights of the Child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1 (as orally revised)

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/13) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1, as orally revised. At the 26th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/624). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the

[1] A/C.5/63/13.

08-67224 (E) 150109

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.46/Rev.1, as orally revised, additional requirements amounting to $513,100 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. This additional appropriation for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operations of the contingency fund.

[2] A/63/624

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Agenda items 118 and 62 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/14) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1. At the 26th meeting, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/617). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the

[1] A/C.5/63/14.

08-67230 (E) 150109

Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.53/Rev.1, additional resources in the total amount of $379,900 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. These additional appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operations of the contingency fund.

[2] A/63/617.

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Agenda items 118 and 71

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law

Request for an advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on whether the unilateral declaration of independence of Kosovo is in accordance with international law

Programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution 63/3

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings, on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/15) on the programme budget implications of General Assembly resolution A/63/3. At the 26th meeting, on 19 December, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/619). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3 below).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

08-67242 (E) 210109

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that the adoption of its resolution 63/3 of 8 October 2008 will entail additional requirements amounting to some $435,000 in respect of the International Court of Justice. Efforts will be made to accommodate the estimated additional requirements of $130,000 in 2009 within the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009, and actual expenditures will be reported in the context of the second performance report for the same biennium. The remaining requirements of $305,000 for the biennium 2010-2011 will be considered in the context of the proposed programme budget for that biennium.

[1] A/C.5/63/15

[2] A/63/619

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Agenda items 118 and 60 (a)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of the rights of children

Rights of the child

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings, on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/16) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1. At the 26th meeting, on 19 December, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Ques[illegible]as introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/623). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3 below).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.16/Rev.1, additional

[1] A/C.5/63/16.
[2] A/63/623.

08-67236 (E) 210109

resources in the amount of $2,175,700 gross ($1,949,800 net) would arise under section 1, Overall policymaking, direction and coordination ($1,758,600), section 28D, Office of Central Support Services ($191,200), and section 35, Staff assessment ($225,900), to be offset by the same amount under Income section 1, Income from staff assessment, of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. These appropriations for the biennium 2008-2009 would be considered by the Assembly in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

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Agenda items 118 and 62 (b)

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Elimination of racism and racial discrimination: comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, as orally revised

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings, on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/17) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, as orally revised. At the 26th meeting, the Chairperson of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/618).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

3. At the 28th meeting, on 23 December, the representative of the United States of America requested a recorded vote on section G of draft decision A/C.5/63/L.27.

4. The representative of the United States made a statement in explanation of vote before the vote (see A/C.5/63/SR.28).

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted, by a recorded vote of 112 to 8, with 28 abstentions, section G of draft decision A/C.5/63/L.27 (see para. 6). The voting was as follows:

08-67249 (E) 210109

In favour:

Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, France, Gabon, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Liechtenstein, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Solomon Islands, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Swaziland, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Against:

Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Israel, Netherlands, New Zealand, Poland, United States of America

Abstaining:

Albania, Armenia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

Decision of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/17) and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/618), decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/C.3/63/L.51/Rev.1, as orally revised, preliminary additional requirements of up to $6,794,700 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management ($4,895,900) and section 23, Human rights ($1,898,800), of the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009. The Committee recommends that the General Assembly take note of these preliminary estimates. Upon the conclusion of discussions and negotiations and the determination of the structure of the Durban Review Conference, including the regional preparatory meetings, detailed information on financial implications will be submitted.

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Agenda items 118 and 48

Programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Follow-up to and implementation of the outcome of the 2002 International Conference on Financing for Development and the preparation of the 2008 Review Conference

Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/63/L.57

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

1. At its 26th and 28th meetings, on 19 and 23 December 2008, the Fifth Committee, pursuant to rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General (A/C.5/63/19) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/63/L.57. At the 26th meeting, on 19 December, the Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions introduced the related report of that Committee (A/63/625). The draft decision submitted by the Chairman following informal consultations was before the Committee (see para. 3 below).

2. The statements and comments made in the course of the Fifth Committee's consideration of this question are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.26 and 28).

08-67255 (E) 210109

Decision of the Fifth Committee

3. The Fifth Committee, having considered the statement of programme budget implications submitted by the Secretary-General[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2] decides to inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/63/L.57, a detailed statement of programme budget implications would be submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration during its current session as soon as specific information on the format and modalities of the conference on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development is made available.

[1] A/C.5/63/19
[2] A/63/625

08-67255

United Nations A/63/658

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Agenda items 117 and 128

Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations

Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Report of the Fifth Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Patrick A. **Chuasoto** (Philippines)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 19 September 2008, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-third session the items entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and "Report on the activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services" and to allocate them to the Fifth Committee.

2. The Fifth Committee considered the items at its 5th, 11th and 28th meetings, on 9 and 23 October and 23 December 2008. Statements and observations made in the course of the Committee's consideration of the item are reflected in the relevant summary records (A/C.5/63/SR.5, 11 and 28).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Fifth Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Board of Auditors contained in its report on the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/63/167/Add.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the information-sharing practices between the United Nations and national law enforcement authorities, as well as referrals of possible criminal cases related to United Nations staff, United Nations officials and experts on mission (A/63/331);

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(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the information requested in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 62/247 (A/63/369);

(d) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/492);

(e) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Office for the period from 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon (A/63/302 (Part I) and Add.1 and 2;

(f) Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the period 1 July 2007 to 31 July 2008 and the note by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon (A/63/329 and Add.1);

(g) Report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee on the activities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee for the period from 1 January to 31 July 2008 (A/63/328), sect. III.A-C;

(h) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Auditors on the activities of the Procurement Task Force (A/63/167);

(i) Related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (A/63/490).

II. Consideration of draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.28

4. At its 28th meeting, on 23 December, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities" (A/C.5/63/L.28), submitted by the Chairman of the Committee on the basis of informal consultations coordinated by the representative of Austria.

5. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.5/63/L.28 without a vote (see para. 6).

III. Recommendation of the Fifth Committee

6. The Fifth Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities

I

Activities of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 59/272 of 23 December 2004 and 60/259 of 8 May 2006,

Having considered the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities[1] and the related note by the Secretary-General,[2] as well as the related section of the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee,[3]

1. *Reaffirms* its primary role in the consideration of and action taken on reports submitted to it;

2. *Also reaffirms* its oversight role and the role of the Fifth Committee in administrative and budgetary matters;

3. *Further reaffirms* the independence and the separate and distinct roles of the internal and external oversight mechanisms;

4. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

5. *Recalls* its resolution 61/275 of 29 June 2007, in which it approved the terms of reference of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee;

6. *Takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on its activities[1] and the related note by the Secretary-General;[2]

7. *Stresses* the importance of full implementation of accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that complete information is provided on the implementation of those recommendations and, where applicable, in cases where full implementation has not been achieved, detailed reasons therefor;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions, such as resolutions on peacekeeping operations relating to cross-cutting issues, are brought to the attention of relevant managers, and that the Office of Internal Oversight Services also take those resolutions into account in the conduct of its activities;

9. *Also requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to ensure that all relevant resolutions pertaining to the work of the Office of Internal Oversight Services are brought to the attention of the relevant managers;

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[1] A/63/302 (Part I) and Add.1.
[2] A/63/302 (Part I)/Add.2.
[3] A/63/328, sect. III.A-C.

10. *Takes note* of the recommendations contained in the related section of the annual report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee in respect of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[3] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of those recommendations, taking into account the provisions of its resolutions 48/218 B, 54/244 and 59/272;

11. *Encourages* the Organization's internal and external oversight bodies to enhance the level of their cooperation with one another, such as joint work-planning sessions, without prejudice to the independence of each;

12. *Notes* paragraph 17 of the report of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, and recalls that one of the responsibilities of the Independent Audit Advisory Committee, according to its terms of reference, is to advise the General Assembly on the effectiveness, efficiency and impact of the audit activities and other oversight functions of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;

13. *Also notes* that the five-year non-renewable term of the Under-Secretary-General for Internal Oversight Services will expire in July 2010, and in this respect urges the Secretary-General to ensure that timely arrangements are made to find a successor in full conformity with the provisions contained in paragraph 5 (b) of its resolution 48/218 B;

II
Investigations and the Procurement Task Force of the Office of Internal Oversight Services

Recalling its resolutions 48/218 B of 29 July 1994, 54/244 of 23 December 1999, 57/282, section IV, of 20 December 2002, 59/272 of 23 December 2004, 59/287 of 13 April 2005, 61/245 of 22 December 2006, 61/275 and 61/279 of 29 June 2007, 62/234 of 22 December 2007 and 62/247 of 3 April 2008,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the information requested in paragraph 17 of its resolution 62/247[4] and on the information-sharing practices between the United Nations and national law enforcement authorities, as well as referrals of possible criminal cases related to United Nations staff, United Nations officials and experts on mission,[5] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 31 July 2008[6] and the report of the Board of Auditors on the activities of the Procurement Task Force,[7] the related notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon[8] and the related reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the information requested in paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 62/247;[4]

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the information-sharing practices between the United Nations and national law enforcement

[4] A/63/369.
[5] A/63/331.
[6] A/63/329.
[7] See A/63/167.
[8] A/63/329/Add.1 and A/63/167/Add.1.
[9] A/63/492 and A/63/490.

authorities, as well as referrals of possible criminal cases related to United Nations staff, United Nations officials and experts on mission;[5]

3. *Further takes note* of the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the activities of the Procurement Task Force for the period from 1 July 2007 to 31 July 2008,[6] and the report of the Board of Auditors on the activities of the Procurement Task Force[7] and the related notes by the Secretary-General transmitting his comments thereon;[8]

4. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the reports of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[9] subject to provisions contained in the present resolution;

5. *Takes note* of the work of the Procurement Task Force;

6. *Emphasizes* its commitment to preventing and deterring fraud and malfeasance within the Organization, and recognizes that such efforts cannot be sustained in the long term by an ad hoc body;

7. *Recalls* the ad hoc nature of the Procurement Task Force;

8. *Notes* the intention of the Secretary-General to transfer the remaining caseload of the Procurement Task Force of the Office of Internal Oversight Services to the Investigations Division of that Office at the beginning of 2009;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that the Office of Internal Oversight Services has the expertise and capacity within its approved structure to effectively investigate allegations of fraud, corruption and misconduct in procurement;

10. *Takes note* of paragraph 12 of the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[10] with regard to the specific element of human resources;

11. *Emphasizes* Article 101 of the Charter of the United Nations, reiterates section II of its resolution 61/244 of 22 December 2006, and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full implementation of the relevant provisions of the Staff Regulations and Rules of the United Nations governing the recruitment of United Nations staff;

12. *Reiterates* that deliberate management decisions to keep a certain number of posts vacant should not be taken, as such action makes the budget process less transparent and the management of human and financial resources less efficient;

13. *Expresses concern* over a number of vacancies in the Investigations Division of the Office of Internal Oversight Services since the beginning of 2008, and requests the Secretary-General to make every effort to fill those vacancies as a matter of priority, in accordance with the existing relevant provisions governing recruitment in the United Nations;

14. *Stresses* that any changes involving administrative and financial implications shall be subject to the review and approval of the General Assembly in

[10] A/63/490.

accordance with established procedures, including regulation 2.9 of the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations;[11]

15. *Recognizes* that investigations of fraud, corruption and misconduct in procurement are often time-sensitive;

16. *Recalls* paragraph 18 of its resolution 62/247, in which it requested the Secretary-General to prepare for its consideration and approval, in close cooperation with the Office of Internal Oversight Services, a report providing detailed information on terms of reference with regard to the proposed comprehensive review of investigations in the United Nations before the General Assembly decides on the necessity of such a review, taking into account the role and mandate of the Office of Internal Oversight Services as established in its resolution 48/218 B, the framework for investigation adopted in section IV of its resolution 57/282 and in its resolution 59/287, the reform of the system of administration of justice, the decisions of the Assembly to strengthen the investigation function of the Office of Internal Oversight Services and its decisions on the accountability framework, results-based management, enterprise risk management and the internal control framework;

17. *Stresses* that the Office of Internal Oversight Services, in the conduct of its investigations, should fully address and respect the due process rights of staff concerned;

18. *Notes* the work by the Office of Internal Oversight Services to develop a comprehensive investigation manual, revise and expand the key standard operating procedures for investigations and develop a comprehensive investigation learning programme for managers and staff on the investigative process, and stresses the importance of that work's being completed and made available to all United Nations personnel as soon as possible;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare as soon as possible standardized and consolidated rules and procedures applicable to all investigations in the United Nations other than the investigations conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, and to ensure that such rules and procedures are made available to all United Nations personnel and to provide information thereon to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session, without prejudice to paragraph 18 of its resolution 62/247;

20. *Stresses* the importance of effective implementation, including referrals to national authorities and recovery actions where appropriate, of the accepted recommendations of the Office of Internal Oversight Services, as well as of effective coordination between that Office and other parts of the Secretariat in this regard.

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[11] ST/SGB/2003/7.